A/B, 4, 3/14

MEMORANDUM

TO : Chief, [redacted] G
ATTN. : [redacted] wgd A
FROM: [redacted]

10 January 1952

Memo No. 1382

SUBJECT : Initial Considerations before Application of the "ARTICHOKE" or Polygraph Techniques

1. Attached is a summary of the recommendations set forth by [redacted] I & S, in a memorandum to [redacted] dated 26 November 1951 covering their requirements to be considered preliminary to employing "ARTICHOKE" or Polygraph Techniques. A

2. I have forwarded a copy of these requirements to [redacted] On 2 January 1952 he and I discussed the subject as it might apply to a [redacted] A polygraph interrogation appears to be very feasible. [redacted] contemplates a visit to [redacted] in approximately two weeks which will afford him an opportunity to determine how readily the requirements of an "ARTICHOKE" program can be met. A G A-B/3

3. No definite commitment has been made for the I & S team at this time.

Attachment: 1

Initial Considerations before Application of "ARTICHOKE"
or Polygraph Interrogations

The following minimum requirements as they so apply should be considered in anticipation of the use of the polygraph or "ARTICHOKE" Interrogation Techniques.

a. General Facilities

1. A safe house or safe area, but not a military prison, concentration camp, barracks, etc., should be provided.

2. For "ARTICHOKE", in particular, two adjoining rooms with bath are desirable. One of the rooms should contain a bed, studio couch or cot. The adjoining room mentioned is essential for setting up the technical equipment. This room, of course, is also essential as an observation room and listening post for persons interested in the case to make notes and prepare questions as the interrogation developes.

b. Technical Facilities

1. The team going from headquarters will either carry with it or send by special shipment the necessary technical equipment including electronic, chemical and photographic equipment. However, it would be a valuable contribution to the operation if the field would inform headquarters as to the technical equipment that is available at the stations. Included in this should be a statement as to what type of current is available (AC or DC, voltage range, frequency); whether variacs are available; whether or not the station has a working recorder and, if so, what type (wire recorders are not regarded as efficient for this type of work); and whether or not certain standard, hospital-type medical supplies can be procured on the scene without difficulty.

c. Information required prior to examination. It is essential that the team have in its possession all possible information concerning the subject. Set forth below are a list of items that are regarded as essential to the case and exceptionally helpful in determining the necessary "ARTICHOKE" technique to be applied to any individual case.

1. A full, detailed, physical description of the subject to be interrogated including age, medical history, psychiatric history, any known physical weaknesses, or metal weaknesses or peculiarities. Is he an alcoholic, drug addict, etc.?

2. A full biographical background of subject with details regarding family, relatives, schooling, travel, jobs, etc.

3. Details of the case proper, including all collateral matters involved, all areas involved, and if possible photographs or descriptions of pertinent individuals, residences, etc.

4. A list of, or a carefully worked out plan showing specifically and in detail, just what information is to be obtained from the subject.

5. What is the present condition of the subject, i.e. Has he been in prison or confinement? If so, for how long? Has he been well fed or has he been on restricted diet? Has he been subject to exhaustive interrogation in the immediate past? Should he be regarded as dangerous?

6. Has the subject been polygraphed? If so, how recently and what questions were asked?

d. Guards, Safety Precautions. The "ARTICHOKE" team should not be required to be responsible for the guarding of the subject nor for their own physical protection. Under no circumstances should they have to carry arms or defensive weapons of any type. The guards should not be military personnel, if at all possible, but in fact should be trusted agency people.

e. Miscellaneous Matters

1. If a choice exists between pleasant, comfortable, clean surroundings for the application of the techniques or grim, prisonlike surroundings, the pleasanter surroundings should be used.

2. A room with rugs on the floor is always better than a room with bare flooring. Accordingly, a rather soundproof location is preferred, adequate ceiling and floor lighting is desirable and a single, glaring lightbulb is not advantageous.

3. The number of persons working on the project should be carefully controlled and limited to as few persons as possible.

4. For a maximum chance of success the interrogation is best carried on directly in the language of the subject. The use of an interpretor is not too efficient.

5. At the present time since it is regarded as impossible to create complete and perfect amnesia in every subject, and in anticipation of only partial amnesia, consideration should be given to the disposal problem and to the extent that our techniques may be compromised with use on each particular subject.